

CLVT- , *PPB*  
Brooks Log House , ruin  
Island Creek Vicinity  
Private

1865-1875

This two story house consists of two sections: a log block, which is the first floor; and a frame block, which is the second. The log was the original with the frame section being added in the 1880's or 90's most likely. In plan, the house has one room downstairs, and two upstairs. Its exterior is plain in appearance and is in fact stark, since the house is abandoned and deteriorating, though the house was very well-made and properly cared for during its days of occupancy.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CT-188B  
CLVT-1PPB

Map # 0501885504

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Brooks House, ruin, or Brooks Log House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER South side of the east fork of Ben's Creek Rd, 0.5 mile east of its jct. with Williams' Wharf Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Island Creek ☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Md.

COUNTY

Calvert

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER Abandoned

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Richard Parker

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER Island Creek

CITY, TOWN

St. Leonard

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code  
Md. 20685

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Calvert County Courthouse

Liber #: JLB 16 Map 33  
Folio #: 198 P. 97

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Prince Frederick

STATE  
Md.

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This house is now abandoned and is increasingly deteriorating due to its derelict condition. Like the other log and frame houses in the Ben's Creek community, it too was once a handsome, though plain, dwelling during the days of occupancy. The house stands on a hill, with its facade oriented toward the north in the direction of Ben's Creek Rd. which runs east-west at the foot of the hill. The grounds about the house are overgrown, and there are no signs of the outbuildings, gardens, and work places that were no doubt associated with this house when the farm was in operation.

The house is two stories in height, the first floor being log, and the second, frame. The first floor appears to be the original section, with the second added at some time, most likely near the turn of the century. The log block is three bays in length, arranged in bilateral symmetry. The house is one bay in depth. In terms of structural features, the log walls rest on ferrous sandstone pilings, are V-notched at the corners, and are sheathed with weatherboards attached to vertical boards over the logs, the boards serving the purpose of studs on frame houses, except that they bear no weight. One of the interesting features of the construction of this house is that it shows the wedges which were inserted between the corners of the log sills and the stone pilings in order to maintain a level floor. Also, the window opening on the east gable end is notched down into the log member, and the window frame set into this <sup>notch</sup>, the frame then serving as a kind of brace. (The slide of that wall shows this clearly.)

The logs are massive in size and are pine, most likely from trees felled nearby. The weatherboards covering them were painted white at one time. There was apparently no front porch, nor other prominent decorative features on the exterior, the overall appearance of the house during its period of occupancy being plain and straightforward.

In plan, the interior consisted of one room downstairs, and two upstairs. The walls were lathed and plastered. The downstairs

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Continued in the section "Significance"

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

Black History

SPECIFIC DATES 1865-1870

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Brooks Family and local

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

community members.

room was warmed by a large fireplace, which was served by a stone chimney ascending the outside of the west gable end. That chimney and the fireplace have since collapsed, and only rubble remains. There may have been separate kitchen behind the house, but there remains no visible evidence of it. From the evidence remaining related to the fireplace, it appears that it was built as a large hearth, and not to serve or supplement a wood <sup>burning</sup> stove, so the cooking may have been done over the fire at one time.

For additional descriptions of the construction and design of this house, see the information provided by Historic Sites Surveyor Wayne Neild.

SIGNIFICANCE:

This house was most likely built in the years "after freedom" by the ex-slaves who settled this community. The family who owned and occupied this site were the Brooks. Like the other houses, it was probably built by the cooperation of the community. Since this house is abandoned and in deteriorating condition, many of the structural details which are ordinarily hidden in well-maintained houses have come into view. Some of these may be seen in the photographs.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

George W. MCDaniel, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Md. Commission on Afro-American History and Culture

DATE

STREET &amp; NUMBER

20 Dean St.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

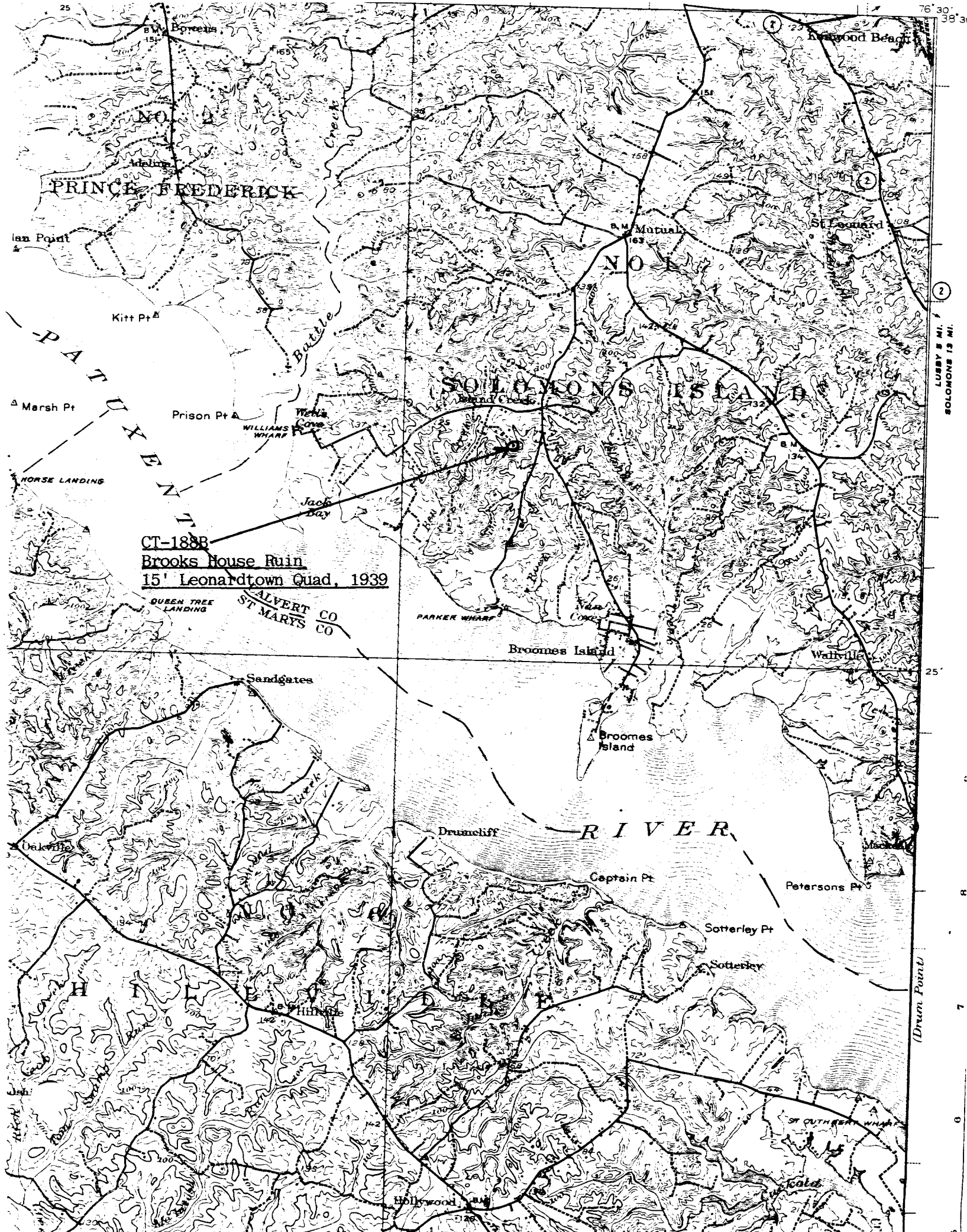
STATE

Md.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

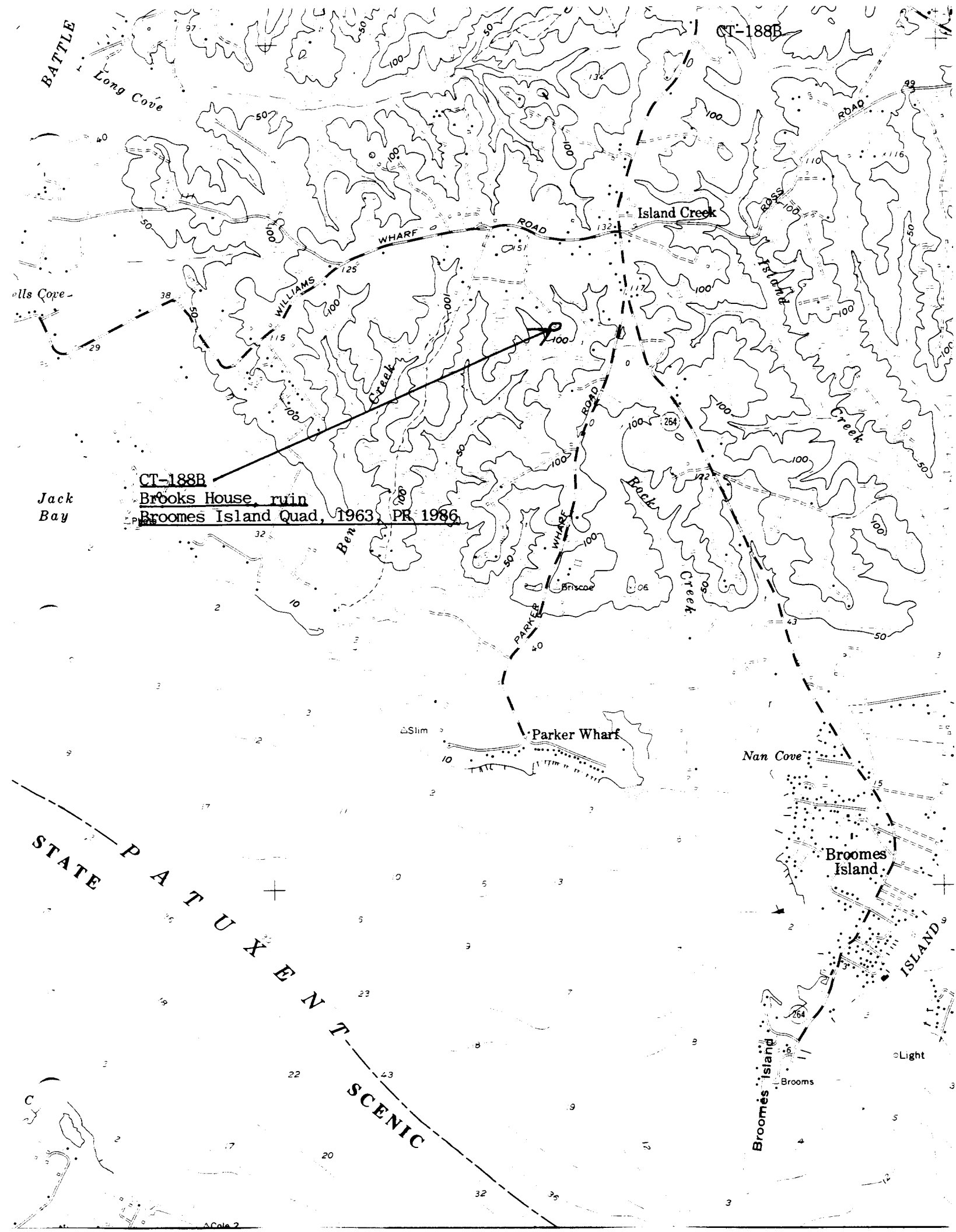


STATE OF UTAH

SCENIC

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

C







CT-188B

Brookings House

CLYT-188B

S. E. N. ew

Island Creek, Md.

Gurn

10/77



CT-188B

Brookings House

CLYT-188B

Detail of top

corner w/  
wedge ~~bar~~

between STONE  
+ SILL.

Island Creek, Md.  
Crown

10/77